

MINUTES
OPC MEETING
November 15, 2012

First Selectman Jayme Stevenson called the meeting to order at 8:08 a.m. in Room 206 of Town Hall.

Present were First Selectman, Jayme Stevenson; RTM Chairman, Sarah Seelye; Board of Finance Chairman, Liz Mao; Board of Education Chairman, Betsy Hagerty-Ross; Planning & Zoning Chairman, Fred Conze and Karl Kilduff, Town Administrator.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross stated that the Board of Education (BOE) projections indicate a continued growth in student enrollment which would result in the need for additional classroom space. There was some discussion of possibly finding an alternative placement for the Early Learning Program.

Mrs. Hagerty-Ross commented that the BOE appreciated that the Town worked diligently to get the schools in Darien up and running again as soon as possible after the hurricane. In a related comment, she stated that the Board would be looking for funding for school generators in its proposed budget.

Finally, she noted that there is a continued push for additional turf fields, especially at the high school.

PLANNING & ZONING CHAIRMAN

Mr. Conze stated that the main focus for the Planning & Zoning Commission over the next couple of months will be to establish guidelines for affordable housing overlay zones, focusing on commercial districts.

Homes in the Noroton Bay area were hit hard by the effects of Hurricane Sandy. While those individuals seeking to rebuild after the storm will need to follow all the proper procedures, it is the intention of Planning & Zoning to expedite the process as much as possible.

Mr. Conze left at 8:50 a.m.

BOARD OF FINANCE

Mrs. Mao will soon be receiving the Town's five-year plan from the Finance Department. As the budget season is about to commence, there was some renewed discussion of ways to improve how the budget is formatted into the budget books to provide a more user friendly synopsis of revenues and expenditures.

Mrs. Mao and Mrs. Stevenson plan to meet with Fire Chiefs, a member of the Fire Commission, a member of the Board of Finance and the Town Administrator to discuss the hiring of a consultant to access long term capital expenditures within the town fire departments.

Mr. Kilduff mentioned that the Board of Finance should expect some expenses related to Hurricane Sandy stemming largely from damages incurred at Weed Beach.

RTM

Mrs. Sarah Seelye was welcomed into the committee as the new Chairman of the RTM. Mrs. Seelye appreciated the smooth transition facilitated by the professionalism of her predecessor, Karen Armour. She also stated that it's her goal to increase communication between the subcommittees and the RTM body.

FIRST SELECTMAN

Mrs. Stevenson mentioned that SWRPA is taking up the issue of 8-30g legislation on affordable housing. She will attend the SWRPA meeting later today on this subject.

Mrs. Stevenson shared some of her experiences as First Selectman during Hurricane Sandy. She was very pleased with the Emergency Command Operation and felt that having Public Works administrative personnel on the EOC site helped facilitate coordination between public works employees and CL&P workers.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Stevenson, the members of OPC who were present agreed that future OPC meetings should begin at 8:30 a.m. instead of 8:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 a.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20, 2012 at 8:30 a.m. in Room 206.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda O'Leary
Recording Secretary